

25p

THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF WIGAN ATHLETIC

SPRINGFIELD SCENE



Saturday, 6th September, 1980 — Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

WIGAN ATHLETIC -v- PORT VALE

Today's Match is sponsored by Leyland Paint & Wallpaper Ltd.

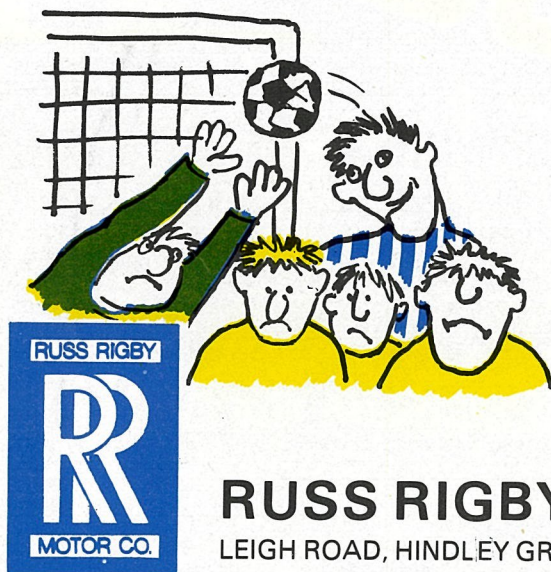
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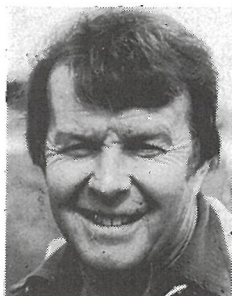
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MY POINT OF VIEW

GOODAFTERNOON ALL. A very warm welcome to John McGrath and his Port Vale side. I trust today's game is as entertaining as our past two encounters

with our visitors at Springfield Park, in as much as the previous games have produced only two hat-tricks by any of our players since our entry into League Football; Peter Houghton scoring three goals in the epic 5-3 victory in our first season in League football, and David Shearer doing likewise in last season's 3-1 success.

So Close

When Jeff Wright put us on level terms against Preston North End on Wednesday evening, I felt sure it was going to be our night, however, it wasn't to be, and when Tommy Gore missed from the spot, (incidentally, his first miss in four or five

seasons), then the writing was on the wall. I was pleased that we kept the battle going right to the last minute. All in all, I felt we did a fairly decent job against the Second Division side.

The Pitch

I would like at this stage to pay further tribute to Billy Mitchell and Philip Lowe for the magnificent condition of our pitch. The playing area is looking really beautiful, and, believe it or not, Billy is still not happy with it. With this in mind, I just cannot visualise what the surface will be like in a couple of years time at the present rate of improvement.

Enjoy today's game.

Ian McNeill

Ian McNeill

Front cover photo: Young Mike Quinn shows determination and aggression as he challenges Aldershot goalkeeper Glen Johnson for the ball. (Photograph by courtesy of the Wigan Observer).

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GREAT NAMES FROM THE PAST

BY HAROLD ASHURST

WHENEVER football fans get together the talk always comes round to the best players of past years — the best goalkeeper, the best full back, the best centre forward etc.

Of course everyone has their own favourites, but the older Latics' supporters seem to have no doubt about one section of the team from many years ago. The famous forward line of Armes, Robson, Roberts, Felton and Scott is rated by many to be the best Wigan Athletic forward line of all time. All the players were signed by the club's first manager, Charlie Spencer, in time for the 1933-34 season. They were all full-time professionals released by Football League Clubs. The forward line-up in those days was two wingers, two inside forwards and a centre forward. Right winger Sammy Armes was signed by Spencer from Blackpool. He was a great controller and crosser of a ball and he provided the ammunition for the two principal goalscorers Felton and Scott. Inside right Norman Robson was a stocky man, a hard tackler and strong runner and he

too got his fair share of goals. Centre forward was Jack Roberts, a big, strong lad in the mould of Peter Houghton, and, like Houghton, he was a powerful runner with the ball and his heading ability was particularly good. Inside left Teddy Felton was signed from Gateshead. A very powerful runner, yet a tricky player, he was built and played like Tommy Gore. Probably the most popular of this famous forward line was Georgie Scott. He was the right winger and was a fast and tricky player, who also packed a terrific shot.

The team in which this forward line starred made footballing history. In the 1933-34 season Latics were drawn away at Carlisle in the F.A. Cup. Carlisle were then in the Third Division North of the Football League and Latics the Cheshire League. That didn't seem to matter because the result staggered football — Carlisle United 1, Wigan Athletic 6 — a score that still stands as a record for a non-league club playing away against a Football League side in a cup tie. One humorous note to the match was as Wigan supporters were leaving the Carlisle ground, one remembered that Sammy Armes, who had scored a couple of goals in the match, once played for the opponents and the next thing there, in big chalk letters across the main gate, was "Carlisle want Sammy Armes back!"

Latics repeated their giant killing act in the next round, beating Torquay United at Springfield Park 3-2 with Robson, Scott and Roberts the scorers. The men who didn't get on the scoresheet that day, Teddy Felton and Georgie Scott, scored a staggering 84 goals between them in the 1933-34 season, as Latics won the Cheshire League.

The forward line stayed together a couple of seasons before the players drifted apart and the story ended in tragedy a few years later when Jack Roberts was seriously injured and had to have a leg amputated.

To present supporters these are names about which their fathers and grandfathers still talk with warmth and affection; to those who actually saw them play there can never be a Wigan Athletic forward line to match their collective ability.

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by Fred Eyre

IT HAS been a week of mixed fortunes below first team level at Springfield Park this week.

On Monday we were knocked out of the F.A. Youth Cup in the First Round at Bradford City where the lads gave a display which didn't really do them justice and the 0-2 defeat dashed any hopes of a repeat of last season's distinguished run.

We were smiling again the next night however, when the Reserve Team maintained their winning run with a handsome 5-2 home victory at the expense of Shrewsbury Town. Two goals from

Skipper "Pop" Freeman, one a second half penalty, one from each of Tony Quinn's revitalised shooting boots and a powerful header from Jim Oliver completed the nap hand.

We in the Reserve Team have become so used to Bob Ward's superb goal-keeping since his arrival from Blackpool, that it goes with scarcely a mention from week to week, but against Shrewsbury he surpassed himself with a magnificent display of goalkeeping and pulled off a string of fine saves to thwart a lively Shrewsbury side.

Local boy Brian Cunliffe also had an outstanding game in midfield, working hard and constantly pushing us forward from midfield, tackling well and covering a lot of ground as well as providing some fine service for our front men.

Wigan Athletic 5 - Shrewsbury Town 2.
Wigan Team: Ward, K. Freeman, B. Freeman, Wignall, Clarke, McAllister, Silcock, Glenn, Oliver, A. Quinn, Cunliffe. Sub: Mavers.
Scorers: B. Freeman 2 (1 Pen) A. Quinn 2 Oliver.

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COMMERCIAL CHATTER

WE ARE currently looking closely at the lotteries' situation, as it affects our club, since, in common with many other fund-raising organisations, we are finding money not quite so easy to come by as twelve months ago. Although the "Treble Chance" ticket and the current "Springfield Rose" ticket managed to achieve very encouraging sales' figures in the early weeks of their operation, after the initial burst of enthusiasm shown for each new ticket there has followed the usual period of sales' resistance. This, allied to the economic recession, is making it very difficult to increase the revenue available from the lottery source. The tightness of regulations with regard to operational expenses, and the need to order a long series of tickets from the printers to obtain a reasonable price, make it very difficult to be as flexible as one would wish with regard to offering sales' incentives and the updating and changing of the lottery ticket to retain the interest of agent and purchaser alike. It would appear that our kiosk in Wigan's Market is doing a better trade than its rivals, but a weekly rental fee of £40 to the Metro and kiosk staff wages take a good percentage of the revenue realised from this valuable selling-point. With local shops saturated with lottery tickets for a wide range of organisations, and the public pressed at every turn by one charity or another, it is little wonder that it is getting more and more difficult to

persuade the man or woman in the street to part with hard-earned cash for what, after all, is a mere gamble.

At this moment in time, our fund-raising is holding up well, but we do have a real need for more agents. If you personally cannot take up an agency appointment, you can help to build a stronger Wigan Athletic by encouraging your grocer, greengrocer, corner-shop or off-licence to become an agent. Just telephone Wigan 43067 between 9.15 a.m. and 4.45 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays, and we will do the rest. You can also help by buying the occasional ticket whether it be through an agency, from the Market Kiosk or a match-day seller. In addition to the many minor prize-winners, one lucky person each lottery stands to win the "Jackpot Draw" for £1,000!!!

Today's match is sponsored by Leyland Paint and Wallpaper Ltd., whose local office at 54 Standishgate, Wigan, see to the needs of the Football Club with regard to the provision of paint and painting implements. The match ball has been donated by our old friend Tom Bleasdale, who, as ever, has been willing to express his support for the club in a practical way. We thank both Leyland and Tom for their generous gestures of support.

Enjoy today's game.

Jack Sudworth
Commercial Manager.



Letterbox

Springfield Park, Wigan, Lancs. 4th September, 1980.

Mr. J. Middlehurst, this week's contributor to Letterbox will be receiving a complimentary ticket for the game against Bury on 20th September, 1980.

6, The Downs, Highfield, Wigan. 1st September, 1980.

Dear Sir,

As a true Latics supporter, may I, on behalf of the majority of us, express my utter disgust at the "foul language" which echoes from the section of the crowd of teenagers, who have the nerve to call themselves football supporters.

Every week we see them, all grouped together, like sheep, occasionally they all hold hands and jump up and down, and then continue with their noise. It is perhaps unfortunate that the teenagers most interested in football do not watch on Saturdays, the reason being that they play for their school or for a Local Football team. The rest who do watch stand as far away from these "yobs" as possible.

I have for the last twenty-five years worked in the Building Industry, where bad language is rife, as in all trades, but it is never intended as a form of abuse to the public at large or, and especially, where children are likely to hear.

Football hooliganism is comparatively new — fifteen years ago unheard of and if it is not stamped out, football will cease to be a sport for all.

To the Directors of Wigan Athletic, I say "Do something . . ."

To the "yobs", next Saturday, go and play in the fast lane of the M6.

Yours sincerely,

J. Middlehurst.

Editors Comment:- *Everyone at the club deplores hooliganism and the verbal obscenities in which football's moronic fringe seem to delight. Unfortunately, it is never easy to isolate the individual offenders, but I am sure the directors will take note of your comments which speak for the decent majority of our spectators.*

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PHOTOFILE

Photograph by courtesy of Evening Post & Chronicle



ABOVE: John Brown pulls off a magnificent save against the eager Preston attack.
TOP RIGHT: Wigan skipper Colin Methven shows power and aggression as he heads towards the Aldershot goal.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Gordon Coleman knocks in the killer goal for Preston North End, leaving John Brown floundering at his near post.



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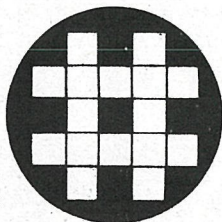
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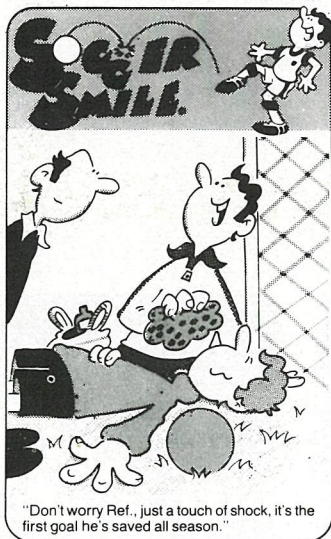
PASTIME-FUNTIME



ON THE BALL No. 5

Every answer has five letters and the first one fits into the top line, but you have to decide where the rest must go.

One of the Mosses; "The Railway-men"; Manager Gordon; Welsh birds



© MIKE TURNER CARTOONS

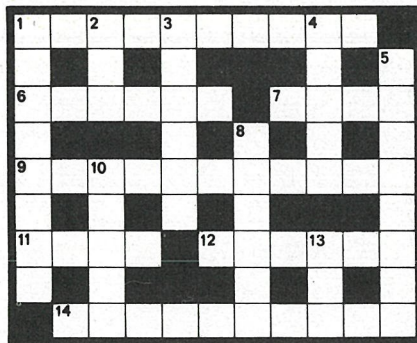
CLUB CLUB No. 5

Solve this cryptic clue to identify a soccer side:

What you've been doing to this publication.

MIXED DOUBLES No. 5

Rearrange the letters in each of the words **SENT** and **SPOTS** to find two bits of soccer 'furniture'



SOCCER NINETY-NINER

No. 5 (compiled by David Peck)

ACROSS

1. He was on the winning side in the last FA Cup Final (5,5)
6. Keeper who joined Southampton from Halifax in 1978 (6)
7. Midfielder who, after long service with **9a** signed for Shrewsbury in summer of 1979 and within months had moved to Mansfield (4)
9. Last season this black and white club won almost twice as many League matches away as they did at home (5,6)
11. Former England Under-23 forward -- Evans was with Wolves, Liverpool, Villa and Walsall (4)
12. The clinching goal (6)
14. Big defender who served Reading last term after two spells with Charlton divided by his Gillingham duties (10)

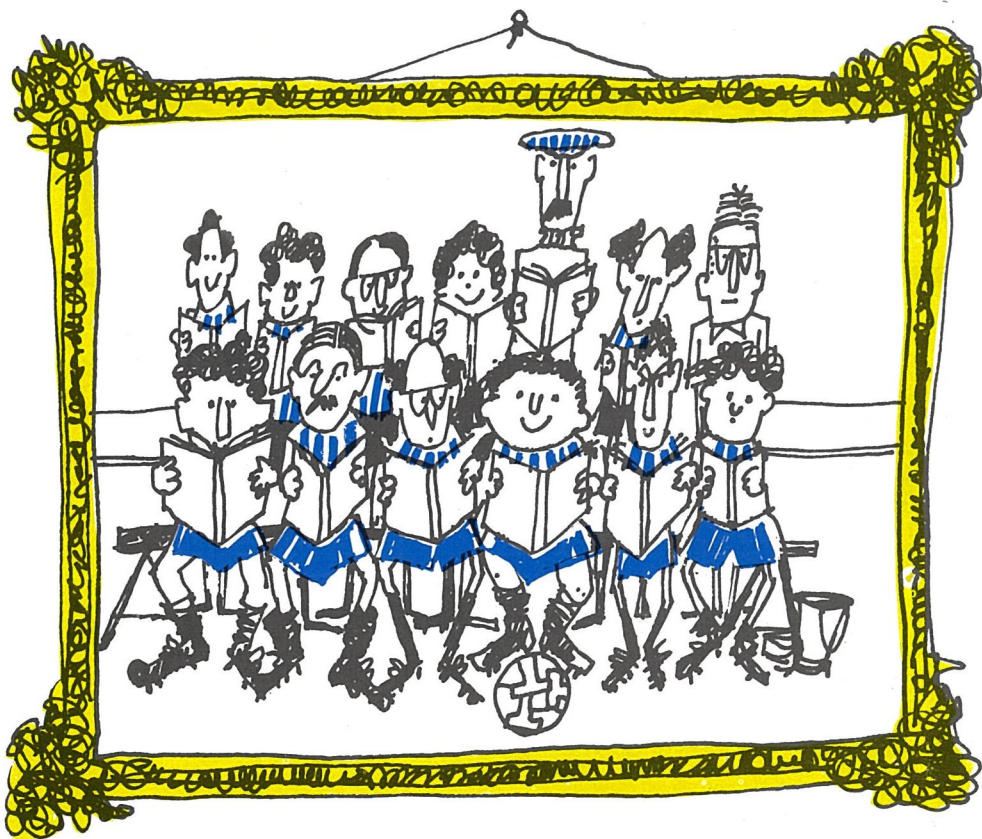
DOWN

1. The 1980 FA Trophy winners (8)
2. Michel --- der Korput (Holland) (3)
3. Inappropriately-named keeper for France for the last three years (6)
4. Country whose players staged a strike a couple of seasons ago (5)
5. Scorer of the only goal in the 1980 Football League Cup Final (4,4)
8. They watch the spectators! (6)
10. It's outside the side-lines (5)
13. Not necessarily a losing score (3)

1980/81 series
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Answers on Page 22.





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OUR VISITORS



PORT VALE FOOTBALL CLUB Season 1980-1981 (Left to right) **Back Row:** Russel Bromage, John Allen, Lee Harwood, Phil Sproson, Paul Bowles, Neville Chamberlain. **Centre Row:** Lol Hamlett (Physiotherapist), Steve Jones, Neil Griffiths, Trevor Bissett, Alan Woolfall, Paul Bennett, Mark Chamberlain, John Rudge (Chief Coach). **Front Row:** Mark Harrison, Peter Farrell, Ian Elsbey, John McGrath (Manager), Gerry Keenan, Kenny Beech, Trevor Dance.

TODAY we welcome "The Valiants" to Springfield Park, for what we hope will be an entertaining game of football between two sides which between them registered seventeen goals in the previous four Football League fixtures played between Wigan Athletic and Port Vale. Although we have had slightly the better of things in the past two years, Port Vale are just ahead of us in the league table at this time, so everything points towards a keen battle for supremacy. Since our last meeting, Port Vale have lost the silky skills of Tony Sealy, while Wigan Athletic are badly missing the sharp finishing of David Shearer.

Last year, Port Vale only narrowly missed the unwanted privilege of applying for re-election, but the early indications are that under new manager John McGrath, things will be a little better for the Burslem side this time around. No doubt the spirit, for which Port Vale sides of the past were noted, will show itself again as the Staffordshire side gain in confidence.

To all our guests, whether directors, management, staff or supporters, we wish you a very pleasant visit, and, after a good game, a safe journey home tonight.

PREVIOUS LEAGUE RESULTS

Season 1978-1979

9th Jan. 1979 Port Vale 2 Wigan Ath. 1
H.T. Score 0-1 Att. 3,744
Scorers: Port Vale: B. Wright and
Todd. Wigan Ath. J. Wright
13th Apr. '79 Wigan Athletic 5 Port Vale 3
H.T. Score 0-2 Att. 8,452
Scorers: Wigan Ath: Houghton (3)
Brownbill, Moore.
Port Vale: B. Wright, Todd (2)

Season 1979-1980

26th Mar. '80 Wigan Athletic 3 Port Vale 1
H.T. Score 3-1 Att. 4,854
Scorers: Wigan Ath. Shearer (3)
Port Vale: Beech.
7th Apr. '80 Port Vale 1 Wigan Athletic 1
H.T. Score 1-1 Att. 3,812
Scorers: Port Vale: Sealy
Wigan Athletic: Shearer

PEN PICTURES

TREVOR DANCE - in Durham. Height 11st.13lbs. Trevor is a member of the first team since the 22nd September on over 50 first team appearances, making his debut in December, 1976. The club's youth system.

MARK HARRISON Born in Derby. Height 12st.7lbs. Mark stands the guidance of Nottingham Forest, Southampton and the first team place he to ensure that John to Port Vale last February.

Mark played out reserves bidding his recognition.

GERRY KEENAN Liverpool. Height 6ft. Gerry began his career made 71 first team



was transferred to September, 1971. In the club he made 3 appearances and scored twice. Last season appearances and scored Torquay.

NEIL GRIFFITHS Stoke on Trent. Height 10st.12lbs. Though began his career with brought to Vale in December, 1973 for made his debut for Grimsby in December.

PORT VALE F.C.

Ground: Vale Park, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent.
Year Formed: 1876
Football League Record: Original member Div. 2, 1892-1896. Have played at Second, Third and Fourth Division levels. Third and Fourth Division Championship Honours.



Goalkeeper — Born [unclear] Height 5'10". Weight [unclear] was an ever present team last season from [unclear] onwards. He has made [unclear] appearances since [unclear] Mansfield Town in [unclear] revor is a product of [unclear] stem.

Goalkeeper — [unclear] Height 6'½". Weight [unclear] started his career under [unclear] Brian Clough at [unclear] He later moved to [unclear] though he did not gain [unclear] e did sufficiently well [unclear] McGrath brought him [unclear] bruary.

at the season in the [unclear] s time for first team

Full back — Born [unclear] Height 5'9". Weight 11st. [unclear] eer at Bury where he [unclear] n appearances. Gerry



Vale for £15,000 in [unclear] n his first season with [unclear] 2 appearances scoring [unclear] son he made 44 [unclear] scored in a 1-1 draw at

Full back — Born [unclear] Height 5'10". Weight [unclear] h born locally Neil [unclear] with Chester and was [unclear] ark by Gordon Lee in [unclear] or a £5,000 fee. Neil [unclear] or Vale at home to [unclear] ber, 1973 and is now

the longest serving member of the club's present playing staff.

IAN ELSBY — **Midfield** — Born Stoke on Trent. Height 5'9". Weight 9st. Ian's uncle was a member of the famous Vale F.A. Cup and League side of the mid fifties. He made his League debut in January, 1979 but really established himself last season. His regular place in the side coincided with John McGrath's arrival and the club's late run of form.

LEE HARWOOD — **Centre back** — Born Perivale. Height 6'. Weight 13st. Lee was an apprentice with Southampton but did not make his Football League debut until after his transfer to Wimbledon in May, 1979. Before signing for Vale in February, 1980 Lee had a period with non-League Leatherhead. He was an ever present member of the side for Vale last season and scored once.

PHIL SPROSON — **Centre back** — Born Trent Vale. Height 6'. Weight 12st. Phil has now established himself in the first team 2 seasons after making his full first team debut at Peterborough in March, 1978. He missed only 7 games last season and scored 3 goals one of which was an outstanding 25 yard drive in the home game against Bradford City.

KENNY BEECH — **Midfield** — Born Stoke on Trent. Height 5'8". Weight 10st.2lbs. Kenny was the only member of last season's first team squad who played in every fixture. Kenny made his debut for Vale against Brighton in the last game of the 1974-75 season. He has performed in a variety of roles including striker and full back during his career with Vale. He was voted last season's "Player of the Year" by the club's supporters.

STEVE JONES — **Midfield** — Born in Liverpool. Height 6'1". Weight 10st.7lbs. Steve was previously an apprentice with Manchester United F.C. and was signed for Vale last summer by Dennis Butler. He made his first team debut during Alan

Bloor's management in last season's away fixture at Hereford. He went on to make 15 League appearances scoring twice. Steve spent part of last season on loan to non-League Stafford Rangers.

PETER FARRELL — **Midfield** — Born in Liverpool. Height 5'7". Weight 10st.9lbs. Peter was the club's record signing from Bury F.C. in 1978 for a fee of £40,000. He made 54 appearances for Bury. Last season though hampered by injury he still managed to appear 33 times for the first team and scored on 5 occasions.

MARK CHAMBERLAIN — **Forward** — Born in Stoke on Trent. Height 5'8½". Weight 9st. 8lbs. Mark is an ex-schoolboys international who has progressed through the Vale's junior ranks. He made 8 League appearances during 1978-79 season and he followed this up with 14 last season. He is a skilful player with a quick turn and speed.

NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN — **Forward** — Born in Stoke on Trent. Height 5'7½". Weight 11st. 5lbs. Neville is a local lad who like his brother, Mark, has progressed through the junior ranks to reach regular senior status. Neville appeared 36 times for the first team last season and was the club's leading scorer with 10 goals, 3 of which came in his hat-trick performance at home to Northampton Town.

PAUL BOWLES — **Centre back** — Born in Manchester. Height 6'1". Weight 12st.11lbs. Paul was signed last October from neighbours Crewe Alexandra for a fee of £30,000. Paul had injury problems last season but still managed to complete 11 first team games.

RUSSEL BROMAGE — **Midfield** — Born in Blurton. Height 5'11". Weight 11st.5lbs. Russel is a powerful left-sided midfield player with an eye for goal. He made his League debut with a 1-1 draw at Bradford City at the end of 1977-78 season. Since then he has figured regularly in the first team usually in a midfield capacity, but ended last season as a goal scoring centre forward in a 3-0 win over Doncaster Rovers.

Russel is another product of the club's youth system.

JOHN ALLEN — **Forward** — John was signed during this close season on a free transfer from Leicester City. Although he did not make the first team at Leicester he appeared and scored on several occasions for their reserve side.

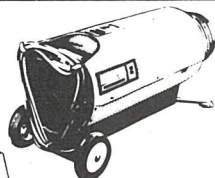
John is a hard working and strong running centre-forward. Born in Coventry. Height 6'½". Weight 13st.3lbs.

VITAL SERVICES

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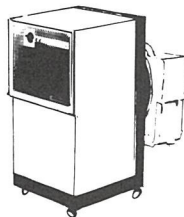
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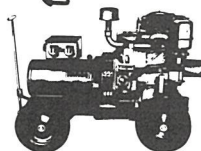
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PLAYER

Maurice Whittle

(Defender)

Birthplace: Wigan

Place of Residence: Shevington

Date of Birth: 15th July, 1948

Height: 5'8"

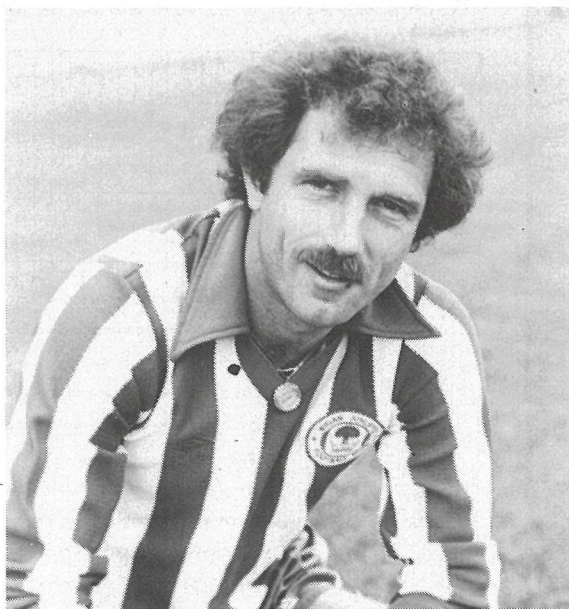
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**Advice to Youngsters: Be prepared
to learn from people with a real
knowledge of the game, keep up a
good level of fitness and work hard
in training.**

Maurice made his league debut for
Blackburn Rovers against Crystal
Palace at Selhurst Park in Season
1968-1969. He has made 333
appearances in Football League
games.



PORTRAIT

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ONCE AGAIN the Staff and Committee wish all our members welcome to Springfield Park. In reply to several queries, I am pleased to indicate that anyone who is interested in joining our Mens' Darts and Dominoes Section, to which we referred in our last programme is most welcome to come along. Our only condition is that obviously you have to be a member of the Supporters' Club for which membership is still open. So, for anyone interested in darts and dominoes, this offers a positive opportunity. We understand that the Upholland League is a well-organised and competitive league, and with sixteen member clubs, a full season of fixtures is assured.

Tonight is the first concert night of September, and the first visit to the club by "The Envoys" — a really great act. Forthcoming attractions are Sunday, 7th September, Ann Marshall.

Saturday, 13th Sept. Kim Curtis
Sunday, 14th Sept. "Double Fit" Duo.
Saturday, 20th Sept. Garry Lane
Sunday, 21st Sept. "Blue Lane" Group
Saturday, 27th Sept. Frank Riley
Sunday, 28th Sept. Wayne Stevens

Sunday evenings, with the Olde Tyme Dance Spot compered by Ken Townley, are proving most popular and in the near future, we hope to be able to stage a full Olde Tyme Dance Night.

Before long we also hope to be able to give details of the proposed visit to the club by "The Wigan Students" Eighteen-piece Band". I understand that

these boys are scheduled to visit the United States in the near future, but we are doing everything possible to ensure that we shall have the pleasure of seeing and hearing these boys before our American cousins!!

On behalf of the committee I wish to thank all our club members for their regular support and assure all our football supporters of a warm welcome and hospitality whenever they decide to spend an evening with us.

Finally, with reference to Wednesday night's programme, Mr. Ken Lord has not left for the South of France — he won a sum of money far less than the £18,000 mentioned. Nevertheless, an increase in applications for membership of our "draw" is anticipated.

Sincerely,
Peter Woods.



MAGNIFICENT Bury and Stockport County begin this week-end as the pride of Division Four, following their mid-week slaying of North-East giants Newcastle United and Sunderland in the Football League Cup.

Bury, who fought back so gamely in the first leg at St. James Park, before going down 2-3, took the tie on the away goals rule after a goal from Bradley had squared things in the return game at Gigg Lane. The only disappointment must have been the size of the crowd — a meagre 4,300.

There is no doubting the shock result of Wednesday night. First Division Sunderland felt the power of the Sword ... literally. With a 1-1 draw at Edgeley Park under their belts from the first leg, Sunderland took the lead in the return fixture through Stan Cummins, but a 17,000 Roker Park crowd was stunned by a David Sunley equaliser and shattered when Tommy Sword tucked home the winner from the penalty spot.

York City went out to Second Division Bristol Rovers on the away goals rule, after losing their second leg game at Ashton Gate through a Faulkner own-goal.

Peterborough United earned an excellent 1-1

draw with European champions Nottingham Forest in front of an eleven thousand crowd, but went out on aggregate, while Tranmere Rovers, in front of a disappointing 4,000-plus attendance, went out to Brighton and Hove Albion with a 2-4 home defeat.

There was little luck elsewhere for the minnows. Barnsley sent Mansfield crashing 2-4, with Parkinson and Clelland getting consolation goals, while Wimbledon could not contain Sheffield Wednesday, despite having a first leg advantage, and finally went down 3-4 on aggregate in front of a 15,000 crowd.

Bradford City, who shocked Liverpool in their first leg game at the Valley Parade, as expected tumbled out of the competition 0-4 in front of a poor Anfield gate of 21,000. Kenny Dalglish (2), Ray Kennedy and David Johnson shattered City's dream.

Finally, high-riding Lincoln City, who lost goalkeeper Colin Boulton with a broken leg in an extraordinary league victory at Crewe Alexandra, last weekend, bowed out of the League Cup 1-3 on aggregate to the bonny cup-fighters of Swindon Town.



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SCENE & HEARD

ON THURSDAY, 11th September, the Commercial Department will play host to a meeting of North-West Commercial Managers of Third and Fourth Division Clubs in the area, plus Blackburn Rovers from the Second Division who will meet to discuss, among other items, a "Super-Lottery" and "Shirt-Advertising".

Still on shirt advertising, it is anticipated that current regulations enforced strongly by both the B.B.C. and I.T.V., which forbid the screening of any game in which either team involved carries a name of a company on its shirt, may well be relaxed in the near future if the European Football Union accepts that shirt advertising can be carried in European Cup matches. This will no doubt delight the big clubs who receive a large amount of television coverage, but smaller clubs may suffer, as it is

logical that the multi-nationals and big business concerns will put their money where there is the best chance of exposure.

Already bringing the benefits of their fantastic away support home to Third Division clubs are current table-toppers Portsmouth, who could possibly be set to emulate Grimsby Town by progressing from the Fourth Division to the Second Division in successive seasons. Certainly the "Pompey Chimes" are ringing out loud and clear again.

Crowd support is still giving cause for concern, but it is still pleasing to note that Wigan Athletic look set to maintain their proud boast of being the best-supported Fourth Division side. Last Saturday's 4,300 gate for the visit of Aldershot was low by Wigan's standards but still the best of the day at their own level.

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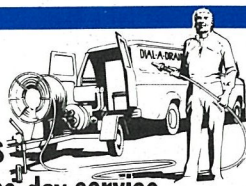
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LATICS AWAY

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Football League Division Four

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CAN YOU HELP?

Thanks to the generosity and co-operation of our Board of Directors and the Wigan League of Hospital Friends, it is hoped that patients in the local hospitals (Wigan Infirmary, Whelley, Billinge and Wrightington) will soon be able to hear a full ninety-minute commentary on all our first team home League and cup matches.

Two or three volunteer commentators may be required and anyone interested in helping to make a patient's stay in hospital a little more enjoyable should contact Mr. H. Carey, 118 Scot Lane, Aspull, or telephone Wigan 832201, giving name, address and any other details thought to be relevant. Auditions will be held, if necessary, before live commentaries begin.

Applicants should also have some or all of the following qualities:-

A good speaking voice.

A reasonably wide vocabulary.

A flair for description (it is no use if the commentator dries up after five minutes), including an ability to appreciate the opposition's good points and the difficulties of the referee and linesmen.

Perhaps, most important of all, a dedication to the job is needed to ensure that a commentary goes out, even when things are not going well for the team.

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The Chairman's Column

AFTER ALL the mid-week tensions of cup football, we are back today to the "bread and butter" league programme and I am sure we can look forward to an enjoyable game with our near-neighbours Port Vale.

I would like to record my appreciation to the Wigan people who came along to the League Cup game with Preston North End last Wednesday evening. Money is never readily available for mid-week games, with most people drawing their hard-earned wages on Thursdays or Fridays. To attract a "gate" of almost 10,000 spectators is a feat in itself these days, and I hope many of those who came along will continue their support for our long league programme.

Football is all about "ifs" and "buts", yet I feel sure that if the normally immaculate penalty-taker Tommy Gore had put his kick away we might have had a different story to tell. We all felt for the player because he has had a great start to the season, but in tight cup tie situations spot-kicks are vital. Ironically, my old club Stockport County put out high-riding Sunderland thanks to a Tommy Sword penalty, which just goes to show how a little club can benefit by taking chances offered. Apart from the penalty incident, one or two of our players were a little below par in the second game against Preston, but I will leave it to Ian McNeill to sort out those problems in readiness for today's game. So interest in this year's League Cup competition has come to an end, but we still have all the "magic" of the F.A. Cup competition to look forward to.

We are still suffering a little in the "engine-room", but, hopefully, when we get our injured players back into the action, our midfield will give us the authority to produce performances which will take us rapidly up the league table. Meanwhile, we are still looking to strengthen our playing resources, and, just prior to putting pen to paper, I have given Ian McNeill the go-ahead to approach Liverpool about a certain player and, maybe, by the time you read these notes, a deal will have been sealed, signed and delivered. Of the other two possible deals mentioned recently, one is still in abeyance, while reports received on the other player were not sufficient to sustain our interest. Whatever the activity in the transfer market, keep up your support and get right behind Ian and the boys.

Enjoy today's game.

Freddie Pye

Freddie Pye.

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Mike Quinn

Tony Quinn

Port Vale

(Yellow Shirts, Green Shorts)

1 Mark Harrison

2 Gerry Keenan

3 Neil Griffiths

4 Kenny Beech

5 Paul Bowles

6 Phil Sproson

7 Steve Jones

8 Peter Farrell

9 John Allen

10 Neville Chamberlain

11 Russel Bromage

12 Ian Elsby

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(Newcastle-upon-Tyne)

Commenced refereeing with local junior and senior leagues, then progressed to the Northern League list. Refereed the Northern League Cup Final in 1976 and 1979, an England v Scotland (Fire Services) match in 1974. He was Senior Linesman at a European Cup match in 1976, the Quarter Final of the F.A. Cup and also Scotland v Finland in 1976. A married man, with one son, he is a Supervisor for the housing department. Likes swimming, plays five-a-side football & enjoys refereeing local Youth and Boy's Club competitions.

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HERE NEXT

Saturday, September 20th, 1980.
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

**WIGAN ATHLETIC - v -
BURY**

Football League Division 4